Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Original) A controlled-dissolution oral care composition for adherence to natural teeth and adjacent soft tissue comprising at least one water-swellable or water-soluble polymer, which composition creates a physical barrier to painful stimuli associated with dentinal hypersensitivity.

2. (Original) The controlled-dissolution oral care composition according to claim 1, wherein the polymer is selected from, cellulose derivatives, polyethylene oxide, chitosan, starch, alginic acid and salts thereof, alkali metal salts of alkylvinylether/maleic acid or anhydride copolymer, and mixtures thereof.

3. (Original) A controlled-dissolution oral care composition for adherence to natural teeth and adjacent soft tissue comprising at least one water-swellable or water-soluble polymer and a nerve desensitizing agent, which composition creates a physical barrier to painful stimuli associated with dentinal hypersensitivity.

4. (Original) The controlled-dissolution oral care composition of claim 3, wherein the nerve desensitizing agent is selected from a potassium salt, a strontium salt, or a combination of zinc or strontium ions, and mixtures thereof.

5. (Original) A controlled-dissolution oral care composition for adherence to natural teeth and adjacent soft tissue comprising at least one water-swellable or water-soluble polymer and a mineralizing agent, which composition creates a physical barrier to painful stimuli associated with dentinal hypersensitivity.

6. (Original) The controlled-dissolution oral care composition of claim 5, wherein the mineralizing agent is selected from a soluble calcium source in combination with a soluble phosphate source to produce calcium phosphate, a calcium releasing substrate, hydroxyapatite, arginine carbonate or bioactive glass.

7. (Original) A controlled-dissolution oral care composition for adherence to natural teeth and adjacent soft tissue comprising at least one water-swellable or water-soluble polymer and an agent capable of forming a non-mineral precipitate for occluding dentinal tubules, which composition creates a physical barrier to painful stimuli associated with dentinal hypersensitivity.

8. (Original) The controlled-dissolution oral care composition according to claim 7, wherein the agent capable of forming a non-mineral precipitate is selected from an inorganic tubule occluder or a polymer tubule occluder.

9. (Original) The controlled-dissolution oral care composition according to claim 8, wherein the polymer tubule occluder is selected from sodium alginate, octadecene/maleic anhydride copolymer, polyacrylic acid or chitosan.

10. (Currently Amended) A composition as claimed ~~in any of the preceeding claims~~ in claim 1 wherein the composition is in the form of a patch, a spray, a gel, a stick or a paste.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of treating and/or preventing tooth hypersensitivity by applying a composition according to ~~any of the preceeding claims~~ claim 1 to the tooth surface.